

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A negative pressure ~~type~~ brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in 4 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein a stopper is provided which restricts the deflection amount of at least one of said plurality of springs arranged in series to below a preset value such that deflection restriction by said stopper will develop while said input shaft is being pushed in to cause change in load increase of said spring assembly relative to the brake operating amount.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A negative pressure ~~type~~ brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in 4 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein that springs having different spring constants are combined to cause change in the load increase of said spring assembly relative to the brake operating amount.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A negative pressure ~~type~~ brake hydraulic pressure generating device ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising:
a constant pressure chamber connected to a negative pressure source,

a variable pressure chamber into which when a brake is operated,
atmospheric air of an amount corresponding to the brake operating amount is
introduced,

a fixed shell for separating said variable pressure chamber and said constant
pressure chamber from outside,

an input shaft actuated by an operating force applied to a brake operating
member,

a piston which receives a pressure in said variable pressure chamber and a
pressure in said constant pressure chamber on pressure receiving surfaces thereof
and produces an advancing thrust by a differential pressure between said pressures,

a spring assembly for biasing said piston in a retracting direction,

a power plate which receives said pressures in said variable pressure
chamber and said constant pressure chamber on pressure receiving surfaces
thereof and transmits an advancing thrust under said differential pressure, and

a control valve built in said piston for controlling the pressure in said variable
pressure chamber by selectively bringing said variable pressure chamber into
communication with the atmosphere or said negative pressure source depending on
the relative movement between said input shaft and said piston,

said power plate and said piston being axially movable relative to each other,

said spring assembly comprising a plurality of springs arranged in series so
that the load of said spring assembly relative to a brake operating amount will
increase sharply from some time after the start of push-in of the brake pedal,

wherein a pin is provided on said piston so as to extend through said power
plate and protrude into said constant pressure chamber, and wherein said spring

assembly is provided between a retainer provided at the a tip of said pin and the inner surface of said fixed shell.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Canceled)